

Child Tax Credit

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Child Tax Credit (CTC)?

The CTC is a monthly cash payment to help working families with expenses like food, gas, and childcare.

Eligible families will receive payments from July 15 to December 15, 2021 totaling:

- \$1,800/child under age 6
- \$1,500/child ages 6 to 17 years old

Why is the IRS issuing advance monthly payments and do I have to pay this back?

The American Rescue Plan authorized the IRS to send working families advance monthly payments.

You do not have to pay this back. The monthly payments are half of the CTC you can claim on your 2021 tax return. You will receive the remainder when you file your 2021 tax return next year.

Who counts as a qualifying child?

Qualifying children must:

- Have a social security number,
- Live with you at least half of the year, and
- Be under the age of 18 as of December 31, 2021.

How are payments calculated?

Payments are calculated based on your latest tax return. If your 2020 return has not been processed by the IRS, they will calculate the payments with your 2019 tax return.

If you don't file a return, you can enroll to receive the benefit on the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) website.

What if my family status changes during the year?

You will be able to provide the IRS with updated information on your family size on the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) website.

What is the CTC payment schedule?

The IRS will send monthly payments to eligible families on the following dates: July 15, August 13, September 15, October 15, November 15, December 15.

How will I receive my monthly CTC payments?

If the IRS has your banking information, you will receive your monthly payments by direct deposit.

If the IRS does not have your banking information, you will receive payments in the form of paper checks.

What if I do not want to receive monthly CTC payments?

You can opt out of receiving monthly CTC payments on the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) website. However, you may still choose to claim the entire CTC payment when you file your 2021 tax return.

